

Soldiers from Hawaii will begin their trip home this week as long as the Air Force can provide a ride. Our relationship with the Pakistani Military continues to grow stronger. They have invited us to a special dinner where their Vice Chief of Staff of the Army (four star general) plans to attend to personally thank our troops for what we have been doing for their country. We look forward to the unique occasion, which will give us added and remarkable memories of this relief operation. Moral remains high as we continue to work very hard and continue to fly at a high operational tempo.

A Public Affairs team came to film Christmas messages. 36 Soldiers of the 4<sup>th</sup> Brigade took advantage of the offer, and made greeting messages for friends and family. We have an embedded film crew here; they are filming a documentary about a unit for PBS. The mission and execution of the US Forces here will produce a very positive documentary for the US Army and Reserve Component units.

We also had our first cricket practice in order in preparation to play the Pakistani Army team, which is scheduled for 26 December. Only four American Soldiers tried out but everyone had a good time. The Aussies especially, as they spent the majority of their time laughing at us. Pub Trivia continued, with a much revised question development scheme in an effort to make it not so American. The Old Ironsides team won again, beating three Australian teams, and proving that we know a lot of useless facts. The Aussies have vowed revenge and are already putting together next week's questions. Anyone know what Vegemite is made of? CSM Wallace received Christmas decorations that have spruced up our living areas. There are Christmas tree balls on the tents and quite a bit of tinsel garlands strung around which adds to a the Christmas cheer.

We appreciate the accolades from everyone to include a message from the Secretary of Defense to the CENTCOM Commander. The most meaningful compliment however comes from the Pakistani People; the latest version of the Chinook helicopter toy comes with an American Flag under the rear rotor.

Happy Holidays,  
COL Bob Johnson  
Eagle 06